



## Wisconsin Chosen to Participate in National Study of Dairy Operations

Wisconsin is one of 18 states chosen to participate in the sixth annual USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) study of U.S. dairy operations. The study provides the dairy industry with new and valuable information regarding trends from 1991 to 2014.

USDA has identified six study objectives including trends in dairy cattle health and management practices; management practices and production measures related to animal welfare; prevalence of lameness and related contributing factors; calf health from birth to weaning; antibiotic use and residue prevention methods used to ensure milk and meat quality; and the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance patterns of select foodborne pathogens. The dairy industry benefits from having access to current and scientifically valid estimates of the study subjects and knowing the trends in the implementing programs based on the information generated.

A subset of operations will have the opportunity to participate in a year-long calf-monitoring study as well. This extended survey will help describe practices related to colostrum management, milk feeding, and calf housing; evaluate colostrum quality and passive transfer; estimate the incidence of disease in calves and its relationship with management factors; evaluate calf growth rates based on different milk feeding approaches; and test calves for persistent infection with bovine viral diarrhea virus.

Participants in both studies get summary reports comparing the results from their operation with those of the other participating operations.

For more information about the NAHMS Dairy 2014 Study, visit the USDA-APHIS website.

## Bringing Veterinary Services to Areas in Need

It's that time of year again. No, not the time of year when winter's worn out its welcome – although it has.

In fact, it's time to tell the USDA where we need food-animal veterinarians. Once again, the USDA is asking State Veterinarians to nominate areas of their states with shortages. Veterinarians who serve at least three years in those areas get up to \$25,000 a year toward paying their school loans under the [Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program](#).

There are three classifications of areas that the USDA considers:

- Type I areas—Anywhere that a veterinarian could expect to spend at least 80 percent of his or her time working with food animals.

- Type II areas—Rural parts of the state where a veterinarian could expect to spend at least 30 percent of his or her time working with food animals.
- Type III areas—Where there is a shortage of veterinarians for public practice, working for government agencies as field veterinarians, epidemiologists, and slaughter inspection; in government laboratories; or at universities.

Do you know of places in the state with shortages? If you do, contact us. We need the names of the counties and other information to substantiate the need - failed recruitments, livestock numbers versus veterinarian numbers, unique needs, and potential consequences if we can't address the shortage.

Contact Dr. Paul McGraw at 608-224-4872 or [e-mail](#) him with your ideas.

## **USDA researchers seek cows showing signs of Johne's disease**

The USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) National Centers for Animal Health in Ames, Iowa is looking for cows showing clinical signs of Johne's disease. Specifically they are looking for 3- to 4-year-old lactating dairy cows, however any lactating cows would be considered. Cows need to have been positively identified with Johne's disease and in the clinical (or late subclinical) stage of infection. Holsteins are preferred. Other dairy breeds will be considered, but mixed dairy/beef will not be considered. ARS would like the cow to have already tested positive for Johne's disease or at least be highly suspect. ELISA (+) is good, but PCR (+) is better. Body score can be thin, but the animal needs to survive transportation to Ames (and hopefully longer). The cows should have no other major health issues such as lameness or feet problems, reproductive concerns or udder issues.

Affected animals will have to be retested and test positive (by both ELISA and PCR) at NVSL before being accepted. The owner will not be charged for this additional testing and there is no charge to send these samples to NVSL. Affected animals would need to stay on the farm until results are obtained. This is expected to only take about 7 days once the sample arrives at the lab. However, we advise that the animal is kept separate while waiting for PCR results and that adequate disinfection take place to avoid, or at least minimize, the risk of spreading the disease. Sale price of the animal can be negotiated with ARS.

If you have any clients who may be interested in this opportunity, send your name and telephone number to our [general e-mail](#) and we will compile a list to send to ARS.

## **Animal welfare and neglect training available for veterinarians and legal professionals**

For many veterinarians and legal professionals the thought of being involved in an animal abuse or neglect case is perplexing, or even frightening. If you are looking for more information and guidance on what is expected of the veterinarian and what the veterinarian can expect from the process in these situations, this seminar is for you.

Plan to attend "Animal Neglect & Cruelty: Navigating the Maze" on Monday, February 10, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Crowne Plaza Hotel. Cost to attend is only \$85 and includes a delicious lunch and 6 hours of veterinary CE credit. You will learn from experts about Wisconsin's criminal and seizure laws, evaluation of livestock welfare, veterinary forensics, and the importance of prosecuting offenders.

Register on our [website](#) to attend.

## USDA Accreditation and TB Certification seminars coming up

We'll be joining staff from USDA-Veterinary Services for the Wisconsin-specific accreditation seminar Tuesday evening, February 25 at the [University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine](#), Room 2350. Registration begins at 5:00, with the seminar starting at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required.

You must complete this seminar in order to do regulatory veterinary work in Wisconsin, including signing certificates of veterinary inspection for in-state, interstate, or international movement. In addition to this seminar, you must also complete [online training](#).

TB certification training for veterinarians will be held the following evening on Wednesday, February 26 at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine in room 2350 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The doors to the main entrance to the school will be locked, but SVM staff will be present prior to the start of the training to open the door for private practitioners attending the training. The next accreditation seminar will be later in the year.

## Small Flock Poultry Veterinary Medicine training available March 25

Backyard chickens and other small flock operations are all the rage now in the U.S. If you would like to learn how to capitalize on this trend, consider taking this valuable training on March 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Madison DATCP headquarters, 2811 Agriculture Drive. The class qualifies for 3 hours of veterinary continuing education credit and will cover a wide variety of information garnered from real case studies. Topics include: vent pecking, femoral fracture, reproductive disorders, growth problems and other medical issues. And you will receive some practice ideas to help you integrate the information you learn into your day-to-day operations.

Pre-registration for the workshop is required. Please contact Margie Proost at 608-224-4877 or by [email](#) by March 17, 2014 to register.

For those that are interested in this topic but are unable to travel to the workshop, a limited number can join the meeting via webcast. For this option, you must contact [Margie](#) for instructions about how to connect. This opportunity is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Certified Pullorum Tester training seminar set for April

A pullorum tester training seminar will be held on Wednesday evening, **April 10, 2014** from **6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** at the **Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center** located at **2419 Northpoint Drive in Stevens Point**. This seminar is for people who would like to become a certified pullorum tester for poultry in Wisconsin. There is no cost to attend the seminar.

Certified testers can test their own or others' poultry so that flocks can qualify for the National Poultry Improvement Program, Wisconsin Tested Flock Program, or individual testing requirements. These testing programs allow owners to move birds for fairs, exhibits, and sales. Certified testers must be at least 18 years old, and adhere to NPIP and Wisconsin Tested Flock program standards. They do not need to be veterinarians or veterinary technicians. The seminar will explain the requirements for the poultry testing programs, and demonstrate how to test for poultry diseases – pullorum and mycoplasma gallisepticum.

A \$25 fee to become certified must be mailed within two weeks after attending the seminar to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection along with a form that will be supplied at the seminar.

**Pre-registration is required** – please contact Margie Proost at 608-224-4877 by **April 1, 2014** to register or email Margie at [margaret.proost@wisconsin.gov](mailto:margaret.proost@wisconsin.gov) or mail to PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.

## Johne's disease news

You can always find the most up-to-date information about Johne's Disease by reading our quarterly newsletters, which are located on DATCP's website. Here you will find the last three years of [Johne's News](#) for beef producers and dairy producers as well as newsletters from the [Wisconsin Johne's Disease Control Program](#).

## Small Bytes

### Premises Registration

Rule changes that went into effect June 1, 2013 have changed renewal cycles for premises registration. Previously, premises registration expired on December 31 every three years from the date of registration. Now all premises will expire on July 31, 2016, and every three years from that date. Newly registered premises and those that were originally due to be renewed December 31, 2013 are not due to be renewed again until July 31, 2016.

Please remember to contact the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) at [www.wiid.org](http://www.wiid.org) or 1-888-808-1910 whenever there are any changes to your premises registration, including addition of the type of animals kept on your premises, contact information, and address changes.

### Official Tag Applications

Official identification (ID) devices, including the metal USDA tags containing the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) numbering system, are the responsibility of those to whom they are distributed. Veterinarians who receive tags to use for their clients' animals should record where the tags were applied. These records should be maintained in such a way that tags can be traced within 24 hours if there is a need such as if an animal is involved in a disease outbreak. Records should include the date, name and address of the producer, and the ID numbers.

### Options for Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for Interstate Movement

Wisconsin veterinarians have several options when writing certificates of veterinary inspection for interstate movement:

- Paper copies are available from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Division of Animal Health by ordering online at <https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/vetcatalog/index.jsp> or by calling 608-224-4872. The appropriate copies should be distributed as indicated on the form.
- Veterinarians can prepare electronic certificates of veterinary inspection online through:
  - USDA's Veterinary Services Process Streamlining <https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/>
  - Global Vet Link <http://www.globalvetlink.com/>
  - VetSentry <http://www.vet-sentry.com/>

### Breed Tattoos and Registration Numbers

As a reminder, due to the Traceability rule that went into effect 3/11/2013, breed tattoos and registration numbers are no longer acceptable as official identification for cattle moving interstate. Although the rule allows for these forms of identification to be considered official when agreed to by the shipping and receiving states, Wisconsin does not have any such agreements with other states. As a result, it is a violation of federal rule to move cattle interstate using breed tattoos and registration numbers as official identification, even if the receiving state indicates it will accept these forms of official identification.